





# *Hymn to Sea*

**Art Aeon**

*Art Aeon/ Hymn to Sea* (2020)

ISBN: 9781990060052

Publisher: AEON PRESS, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada

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Printer and Distributor: Amazon.com KDP Platform

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An old version of this book was published in 2007  
by AEON PRESS Canada, under the title:  
*Prayer to Sea* by Art Aeon.

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\*Printed and distributed by Amazon. com KDP platform.

## ***Hymn to Sea***

A collection of seventy short-poems.

They sing of the magnificent beauty,  
the deep mystery, and the sublime  
spirituality of sea in simple songs.

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For  
whoever loves  
the magnificent beauty  
and reveres the deep mystery  
and the sublime spirituality  
of SEA

{1}

*Sailing at Sea*

Sailing on the immense sea,  
I breathe in fresh breezes.

How deep it inspires my soul,  
elated in awe, wonders, and thrills.

Beyond the vast mystic horizon,  
I yearn to see the sublime.

{2}

*Acadie* (Nova Scotia)

This ethereal landmass looms  
like a colossal leviathan;

It sails on the deep, boundless water  
to reach its mysterious abode.

This is the blessed land of freedom,  
embraced by the vast Atlantic.

May I sing of our good people,  
who toil to rejoice here in peace.

{3}

*Cape Breton*

Here ends this continent;  
The vast fathomless sea extends.

The curved horizon hovers  
over the Atlantic Ocean.

Migrating whales swim afar,  
shimmering like subtle mirages.

A voyager ponders how to sail  
safe across the mystic sea of being.

{4}

*Seascape*

The vibrant sea embraces  
a cozy sheltered cove.

Twin peaks of an islet  
soar up from the deep water.

A couple of seals play  
on perpetual billows.

I gaze at the vast horizon,  
breathing out infinity.



{5}

*Margaree River*

An old wooden bridge crosses  
over gentle *Margaree River*;

It flows into the immense sea,  
glittering at a serene sunset.

A graceful heron alights  
on a submerged tree stump;

She poises so still, as if  
painted in a mythical picture.

{6}

*Prayer at Sunset*

At sunset, I reach the high headland,  
jutting out to the vast shining sea.

The red sun-disc blazes the curved horizon;  
It dips into the glittering water.

Beauteous afterglows suffuse  
the pristine coasts and serene sea.

Rapt in awe, wonders, and sheer thrills,  
I bow to the sublime grandeur of nature.

{7}

*Strolling Carefree*

Early in a pleasant clear morning,  
I stroll around a serene, cozy cove.

Playful waves sing and dance  
by the pristine vibrant seashores.  
Fresh breezes gently caress me.

I gather exquisite driftwood  
to build a fanciful castle on sands.

The open sea and sky embrace my soul;  
Free, happy, and thankful in peace.

{8}

*Along the Cabot Trails*

Steep rocky cliffs plunge into the vast sea;  
Winding roads weave in sudden turns.

A breathtaking panorama unfolds  
before my awe-astounded vision:

I seem to dive deep into the sea;  
Then soar up high to reach heaven.

*Sanctuary in Cape Breton*

Hiking along the coastal trails  
in the Cape Breton Highlands,  
I admire stark, steep, sheer cliffs,  
sculpted by the incessant sea.

Rare animals freely roam  
in this secluded haven:  
Moose wave comely antlers;  
Great herons glide in the sky.

How wondrous to breathe in  
the pristine beauty of nature;  
I adore this peaceful land,  
singing with the vibrant sea.

{10}

*Sea Sculptures*

Picturesque clouds float  
in the deep azure sky.

The vast blue sea embraces  
rugged, pristine, stark coasts.

Lively billows hew hard rocks  
into sheer wondrous sculptures  
through countless cycles of seasons.

Here, one breathes in one's own eternity.

{11}

*A Haven by Sea*

Little islets dot the immense sea  
like gems sparkling on the blue water.

Green carpets of junipers adorn  
pristine seacoasts, rolling in peace.

A hidden, graceful cove cuddles  
playful waves, lapping from the sea.

A rare seabird leaves fine footprints:  
Cryptic poems written on sands.

{12}

*Crescent Beach*

The vibrant sea embraces  
a hidden crescent sandy beach.

A flock of blue herons  
reposes in timeless still.

The resplendent sun sets  
on the glowing horizon.

A meek soul breathes in  
the blissful sublimity in a trance.



{13}

*On the Skyline Trail*

The splendid sun sets on the immense sea,  
pouring out its glorious golden rays.

Suddenly, gusty winds bring dark clouds;  
They clash in lightning and thunders.  
Thick hail and rain pour down,  
drenching a hiker on a bare, stark headland.

The thunderstorm stops as quickly  
as it started; a graceful rainbow bedecks  
the misty pristine coastal mountains.  
The setting sun beams wondrous lights.

The calm sea gleams ablaze in afterglows.  
The elated soul muses in a deep trance.

*Musing on Shining Stars*

Camping on the *Tancook Island*,  
a small isle afloat the Atlantic,  
I stay awake on a tranquil night.

Countless stars look so bright and close,  
as if they came down to reveal  
mysteries of the expanding universe:

*“Why have you been burning out  
your masses in such fierce passions?*

*How long have you been running away  
from each other so fast and afar?*

*Who will stay awake here, and till when,  
to watch your abstruse grand drama?”*

{15}

*In the Kejimikujik Park*

The vast serene lake  
reflects the clear blue sky  
like a huge mirror  
in a wonderland.

My sleek canoe glides  
on the limpid silken water.  
Adrift carefree, I dream  
in this surreal, ethereal realm.

Songs of unseen loons  
echo on the pristine shores.  
Blissful peace pervades  
deep my inner lake.

{16}

*A Fishing Cove*

The sun sets on the serene sea,  
glittering in splendours.

Unearthly peace deepens  
in a calm sheltered cove.

An old pier cuddles  
a small fishing boat.

A lone egret alights on  
its bare mast, and rests.

{17}

*Cape Split*

Stark headlands split into colossal crags.  
Miles of crimson clays vanish into the sea.

A stout eagle soars up along steep sheer cliffs.  
Colourful flowers dance in fresh sea breezes.

Wild high tides surge into the huge wide basin;  
Whitecaps waft on turbid rushing billows.

The Bay of Fundy roars primeval calls;  
Their echoes reverberate deep in my heart.

*Abegweit* (Prince Edward Island)

Amid the vast Gulf of Saint Lawrence,  
a dreamy island, *Abegweit*, floats in peace.  
Green meadows gently meander  
to merge with crimson cray beaches.  
Blue herons gently glide around shores,  
caressed by lapping waves from the sea.

Alone, at a small cozy gable  
of a friendly old farmhouse,  
I stay awake in a still, moonlit night.

Amid deep sounds of the vast sea,  
I seem to hear the vivacious  
laughter and heartfelt sobs  
of our dear Anne of *Green Gable*;  
Her frank, kindly spirit  
and beautiful imaginations  
make this remote island  
a vivid, enchanting dreamland.

{19}

*Peggy's Cove*

An old lighthouse stands alone  
on stark, rocky cliffs at *Peggy's Cove*;

It looks out the boundless sea,  
keeping a deep prophetic silence  
on vicissitudes of our life.

Who was Peggy? What did she do  
to leave here her sweet name?  
The legends of simple people  
with good gentle hearts murmur  
in the cryptic voice of ageless sea.

*Hiking around Peggy's Cove*

We hike on stark, rugged seacoasts  
around the panoramic *Peggy's Cove*.

How wondrous it is to breathe in  
fresh vitality of the vast, vibrant sea!

The mystic horizon looms so closely,  
as if we might peek the beyond.

We are nature's little children;  
In delight, we sing of her grace.



{21}

*Voice of Sea*

The mystic voice of the immense sea  
resounds on the pristine seashores.

What does it speak to my deaf ears  
in such a fathomless mystery?

Elated in deep awe and wonder,  
I strive to grasp what the sea sings.

{22}

*Stormy Sea*

Roaring gales gust over  
wild, rugged seacoasts.

Enraged billows pound  
rough, craggy, sheer cliffs.

The stark headland looks  
utterly forlorn.

Yet, how much I love  
this austere beauty!

*Moonlit Seashores*

The lucent full moon rises  
above the vast horizon.  
Silvery beams glitter  
on the immense sea.

A fishing boat comes home  
safe in limpid moonlight.  
Playful waves caress  
this peaceful, cozy cove.

A humble man muses,  
strolling along seashores.  
Unearthly calm prevails  
the moonlit mystic sea.

{24}

*A Pair of Seabirds*

A fine delicate lace  
of fragile ice bedecks  
the sheltered crescent shore  
of a small hidden cove.

A pair of seabirds alights  
on their cozy haven;  
How peacefully they rest  
in such warm, tender love!

{25}

*In my Haven by Sea*

The boundless sea sings  
in a deep, mystic voice.  
Vibrant waves caress  
pristine, scenic coasts.

Refreshing sea-breezes  
invigorate my heart.  
The curved horizon  
inspires my vision.

Atop a steep windy cliff,  
I kneel on my blessed haven  
to thank for this blissful peace  
amid tense struggles in our life.

{26}

*Misty Sea*

Dense mists sweep on calm shores.  
The sea disappears, and reappears  
like vague images in a dream.

What do these subtle feelings sculpt  
into the mystic recess in me?  
The deepest mystery is this mind.

{27}

*Prayer by Frozen Sea*

The pallid sun sets on the frozen sea  
in sombre, austere, impressive grandeur.

Serene dim dusk shrouds a lonesome figure,  
kneeling humbly in earnest prayer:

*“May I sail across this mystic sea of being  
to reach safely the enlightened realm.”*

{28}

*Prayer to Sea*

I come to you, sea,  
to confide my joys and woes,  
passing through this life.

Sing to me what you  
know of this mystic voyage  
to find my true home.



{29}

*Cosmic Music*

Limpid moonlight gleams  
on vibrant waves; vast sea sings  
deep cosmic music.

{30}

*Double Storms*

Dour squalls thrash headlands.  
Seething billows beat bleak shores.

Climbing up stark cliffs,  
I strive to quench fierce storms,  
surging in this anguished heart.

{31}

*Winter Journey*

Lucent full moon shines  
the calm sea; cold austere night  
deepens in stillness.

A man roams over frozen shores;  
May he find a warm haven.

{32}

*Winter Hike*

Along ice-glazed seacoasts,  
I wade through deep sea of snow  
elated in sheer thrills.  
How wondrous 'tis to breathe in  
austere beauty of winter!

*Sunset at Sea*

The blazing sun-disc touches  
the curved horizon of the immense sea.  
Resplendent lights imbue the sky,  
the sea, and the coasts in splendour.

Soon, the sun-disc dips into the sea;  
Impressive afterglow of the sunset  
suffuses the peaceful lands, the serene sea,  
and an ethereal sea in me.

{34}

### **Winter's Lull**

Frozen seashores doze  
in lull; hungry seagulls rest  
on pale drifting ice.

{35}

*Spring Stupor*

Fogs shroud livid sea.  
Chilly rainstorms drench bleak lands.  
A paltry froth fleets.

{36}

### **In Snow**

Snowflakes bloom on pines.

Seagulls rest on floating ice.

A man strolls in thoughts.



{37}

*The Moon in Clouds*

Through drifting dark clouds  
pale moon peeks above somber sea.

How I wish to purge  
it from tempestuous tumults  
to shine deep into my heart!

{38}

*Tempests*

Tempests surge on sea.  
Old piers withstand wild billows.  
I bear inner storms.

{39}

### **Workaday**

In twilight, I walk  
home on tranquil sea of snow —  
happy to rest at  
the warm hearth with my beloved  
family in love.

{40}

## **Thunderstorms**

Fierce thunders pierce sky.  
Seething sea strikes stark bleak lands.  
I quell squalls in me.

{41}

*Old Sailors' Tombstones*

Fading epitaphs weather out  
harsh salty billows of vibrant sea;

They invoke stout souls lost at sea  
to come alive in this timid heart.

{42}

*Hiking in Mists*

Around steep *Chebucto Head*,  
We hike along pristine coasts;  
We wade through subtle mists,  
arising from the hiding sea.

Listening to a deep voice  
of the prophetic sea,  
We muse on the things past  
and our dreams to fulfill.

*Planting Pine Seedlings*

On our pristine land, caressed by sea waves,  
we toil to plant tender little pine seedlings.

We strive to clear wild bushes and weeds;  
We struggle to till hard, stubborn soils.

Fresh sea-breezes clean our sweats,  
and invigorate our thankful hearts.

We finish our work at sunset.  
The sun-disc dips into the sea.

We pray, elated in awe and thrill;  
*"May the seedlings grow to form pine groves."*

*Bay of Hope*

How wondrous to come back  
to our pristine haven by the sea;  
Lush groves of pine trees greet us  
along the pleasant, vibrant seashores.

We camp beneath the green canopy of pines;  
We relish delicious foods, cooked on campfires.  
We stroll along the shores, and collect shells;  
We listen to the inspiring voice of the sea.

Calm dusk deepens after a glorious sunset.  
Twinkling stars flow in shining rivers of light.  
The vast Milky Way wheels over our heads.  
Elated souls pray in awe and heartfelt thanks.



{45}

### **Camping at *Bay of Hope***

In twilight of calm early dawn,  
tender pines play with fresh sea breezes.

Our children are sound asleep in tents,  
roving in their beautiful dreams.

Strolling along vibrant shores in peace,  
I listen to the deep voice of sea in bliss.

{46}

*On Beach Meadow Beach*

The vast vibrant sea caresses  
miles of a silvery sandy beach in peace.

The boundless sky embraces  
the curved horizon of the mystic sea.

Enchanted on this ethereal beach,  
I wade along gently lapping waves  
rapt in a blissful trance.

{47}

*Dawn of Awakening*

A mysterious pristine dawn  
hovers over the serene immense sea.

Ineffable yet deeply impressive hues  
imbue this unearthly moment.

Kneeling on his beloved sandy beach,  
a lone soul prays for a spiritual  
dawn of inner awakening.

{48}

*The Sea in Me*

May I sing of sea  
deep in my soul—vast, mystic,  
and ethereal sea.

{49}

### **A Bird and a Child**

Crescent sandy beach embraces  
playful waves from the deep sea.

A lone, little bird leaves  
fleeting footprints on the shore.

Sunset suffuses beauteous sea.  
A child in me follows the bird.

{50}

*Canoeing at Sea*

I paddle a tiny canoe,  
gliding on the limpid sea.

Fresh, cool breezes cleanse my heart,  
dancing with playful waves.

Bless this frail, fleeting froth,  
adrift free on vibrant sea of life!

{51}

### **Silent Night**

Serene sea reflects  
shimmering stars; I listen  
to cosmic silence.

{52}

*A Heron at Sunset*

Calm sunset suffuses  
graceful sea; a lone heron  
glides in afterglow.



{53}

### Ecstasy

Climbing up seacoasts  
I listen to Beethoven's  
*Choral Symphony*;

Into this cosmic music,  
my soul seems to sublimate.

{54}

### **Into Words**

Teach me, timeless sea,  
how to put what I imagine  
into firm plain words.

{55}

*Tides in Life*

Hard times in life come and go  
like tides at sea surge and ebb.

Yet the sea remains the same,  
holding endless changes in poise.

May my inner sea embrace  
tides of emotions in peace.

{56}

*Plea*

Let me sing of sea  
to purge my heart from anguishes  
in journey of life.

{57}

*A Froth on Sea*

A fleeting froth floats  
on sea of life— may he reach  
the sea deep in him.

{58}

*My Sea*

I long for my sea:  
She knows what I feel at heart;  
She sings what I yearn.

{59}

*Evening Walk*

Lithe mists waft on sea.  
Fresh breezes cleanse my mind; may pure  
poems bloom in it.

{60}

*Repose in Sea*

Magnanimous sea—  
when I pass this life, let me  
rest in your bosom.



{61}

*Dawn at Sunset*

Sunset glows on sea.  
A man kneels in prayer; inner  
dawn suffuses his soul.

{62}

*Sea at Rest*

Tranquil sea reposes  
in ethereal peace; a reed  
breathes in eternity.

{63}

*Voice in Me*

Unseen sea in me—  
I strive to grasp its deep voice,  
tolling in silence.

{64}

*To Oneself*

To reach sea in me  
I write *Hymn to Sea*; may it  
purge and soothe my soul.

{65}

*Offering*

Simple song of love  
to sea of life—may this flow  
deep from heart to heart.

{66}

*Prayer*

Let me find peace in sea  
when I pass through this transient life;

May my soul merge with sea  
to sing of lofty cosmic spirit.

{67}

*Into Ancient Myth*

An old man paddles  
a tiny lone canoe,  
gliding on the sea  
at a calm sunset.

A noble bird hovers  
over his vision,  
like the sacred *Ma'at*,  
guiding his soul.

The man and the bird  
fade away in the twilight,  
sailing to their home  
in the ancient myth.

{68}

*For Inner Awakening*

Over this peaceful land,  
caressed by the immense sea,  
a cold, still, winter night  
deepens in surreal serenity.

Beautiful stars shine  
in rivers of light,  
across the infinite vault,  
embracing the sea.

A new millennium dawns  
in our brief history,  
on this tiny planet,  
fleeting in the boundless void.

On the frozen seacoast,  
a humble man prays alone  
for an inner awakening  
in the enlightened realm.



*Confession*

*“Why do you struggle to write  
in a foreign tongue something  
which nobody would care to read?”*

*“I toil to sing for my own heart  
what I feel, think, imagine, and yearn  
as plain, earnest, and deep as I can,  
babbling them in my pidgin English,  
elated in awe, wonder, and heartfelt thanks.”*

{70}

*Inner Voice*

A fleeting froth floats  
on the mystic sea of being.  
He prays in earnest:  
*"May I reach the unseen sea in me  
to grasp its prophetic wise voice,  
tolling in eloquent silence."*

An inner voice resounds  
deep in his humble soul:  
*"Here, a point merges into infinity;  
Your brief life into eternity."*



## Epilogue

This collection of simple songs was gleaned from plain diaries of our workaday life on the pristine Atlantic coasts of Canada over a half century.

I am deeply thankful to my family who has inspired me to sing of our mundane life with new meanings, zest, and devotion with heartfelt love.

Photos of the seascape in the book-cover were taken by the author.

Art Aeon



